

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

Man has always tried to make himself more beautiful. The most primitive Indians, hidden away in the woods and jungles, used the bright feathers of birds, berries, bones, and shells to make necklaces, bracelets, and earrings.

Beautiful jewelry of gold and precious stones was being made 4,000 years ago by the Egyptians. Of all the metals gold is the most colorful and the easiest to work with and has always been eagerly sought.

The next time you put on a piece of jewelry before a mirror, look hard to see if you can make out all the shadowy figures behind you doing the same thing. There is the proud Spaniard, the turbaned Arab, the kingly Aztec, the brave Zulu--and at the dim edge of time--the prehistoric man sticking a blue feather in his uncombed hair.



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1. This story is about:
 - (a) cosmetics
 - (b) metals
 - (c) jewelry
 - (d) feathers
2. Man has adorned himself
 - (a) for 4,000 years
 - (b) since beginning of time
 - (c) only in modern times
 - (d) since the Indians roamed America
3. Gold was used by early people because it was:
 - (a) cheap
 - (b) dull in color
 - (c) hard
 - (d) easy to shape
4. For beauty prehistoric man probably used:
 - (a) feathers
 - (b) gold
 - (c) leather
 - (d) precious stones
5. Before man discovered gold and precious stones he used:
 - (a) silver and turquoise
 - (b) colorful berries and shells
 - (c) platinum and onyx
 - (d) copper and iron
6. Edge in this story means:
 - (a) the cutting side
 - (b) the line where an area begins
 - (c) border
 - (d) the beginning
7. Because gold is easy to use and eagerly sought after, you can conclude that it is:
 - (a) expensive
 - (b) cheap
 - (c) plentiful
 - (d) easy to mine
8. From this story you can conclude that man in his search for beauty has used:
 - (a) only precious stones
 - (b) only jewelry
 - (c) many things to adorn himself
 - (d) only hard objects